

Amendments to the Drawings: Fig 1 of the drawing has been amended to add (1) holes and (2) the numeral "17a" designating the holes. A replacement sheet of drawings containing Fig 1 is enclosed.

Remarks/Arguments: Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In view of the Examiner's objections to the drawings, it is requested that the enclosed Replacement Sheet of drawings setting forth Fig. 1 of the drawings be entered. The addition of the pre-drilled holes 17a to the cabinet in Fig. 1 of the drawings is supported by the original paragraph which spanned pages 5 and 6 of the specification. Therefore, the amendments to the specification and drawings do not add new matter to the application.

Claim 19 has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error by changing "aid" to - - said - -. The Examiner's helpful pointing out of this error is greatly appreciated.

In regard to the claims, claim 1 was previously rewritten as claim 18. Claim 18 sets forth a locking mechanism for an item of furniture having two or more drawers. The item of furniture has a plurality of spaced apart reference positions which have been designated by the numeral 17a in the enclosed replacement sheet of drawings. Each of the latching devices is set forth in claim 18 as having a location surface which is engageable with one of the reference positions 17a. The latching devices are connected to a connecting member at positions which are spaced apart by the distances which are the same as the distance between the reference positions or pre-drilled holes 17a on the item of furniture.

Claim 18 defines over the prior art, and particularly the patent to Killen (4,425,013), by setting forth:

1. a plurality of spaced apart reference positions on the item of furniture,
2. each latching device as having a surface which is engageable with one of the reference positions to position the one latching device relative to other reference positions and other latching devices.

The patent to Killen does not disclose a plurality of reference positions on a furniture item. The patent to Killen does not disclose latching devices having locating surfaces which are engageable with reference positions on an item of furniture to position the latching devices relative to each other. Furthermore, there is nothing in the patent to Killen which even remotely suggests having latching devices connected to a connecting member at positions which are spaced apart by distances which are the same as distances between reference positions on an item of furniture.

Claims 2 through 11 depend from claim 18 and define over the prior art for substantially the same reasons as does claim 18 and by virtue of the structure and function set forth in these claims taken in combination with the structure and function of claim 18. Specifically, claim 2 sets forth a latching device as being releasably connectable to the connecting member.

Claim 3 depends from claim 2 and sets forth the latching device as being connectable to the connecting member by means of a snap fit. It is respectfully submitted that the screws 33 and 34 of Killen do not connect the lock 20 to the bar 30 by means of a snap fit.

Claim 4 depends from claim 18 and sets forth each latching device as having a peg on which the locating surface is disposed. The reference positions include holes which are engageable by the pegs on the latching devices. The latching devices are connectable to the connecting member while the pegs are disposed in the holes.

Claim 5 depends from claim 18 and sets forth a connecting member as being designed to be located for slidable movement in a preformed groove in the furniture item.

Claim 6 depends from claim 18 and sets forth each of the latching devices as being arranged to cooperate with a pin associated with a drawer. The locks 20 of Killen do not cooperate with a pin which is associated with a drawer.

Claim 7 depends from claim 6 and sets forth the drawers as being mounted on the furniture items by runner and each pin is being mounted on a drawer runner. The drawers 14 and 16 of Killen have runners 18. However, pins are not mounted on the runners 18 of Killen.

Claim 8 depends from claim 6 and sets forth the drawers as being mounted to the furniture item in adjustable positions and each pin as being mounted on the drawer mounting means. The patent to Killen does not disclose pins which are mounted on a mounting means for a drawer.

Claim 9 depends from claim 8 and sets forth the drawer mounting means as being configured to receive the mount for the respective pin at chose positions. There is nothing in the patent to Killen which even remotely suggest having a drawer mounting means configured to receive pins at chosen positions.

Claim 10 depends from claim 8 and sets forth the pins as being mounted on their respective mounting means by means of a snap fitting. There is nothing in the patent to Killen which even remotely suggests having pins mounted on drawer mounting means by means of a snap fitting in the manner set forth in claim 10.

Claim 11 depends from claim 18 and sets forth a mechanism as operable additionally and selectively to disallow opening movement of all the drawers.

Original claim 13 has been rewritten as claim 19. Claim 19 is directed to a method of assembly of a drawer locking device for a furniture item having a plurality of drawers. Blocking devices are connected with the furniture item at reference positions provided on the furniture item. The connector is connected to the blocking devices when the blocking devices are connected with the item of furniture at the reference positions. The blocking devices are disconnected from the furniture item while maintaining the blocking devices connected to the connector. The blocking devices are connected with the furniture item while maintaining the blocking devices connected to the connector.

Claim 19 defines over the prior art, particularly the patent to Killen (4,425,013), by setting forth the following steps:

1. connecting blocking devices with the furniture item at the reference positions,
2. connecting a connector to the blocking devices with the blocking devices connected to the furniture item at their reference positions,

3. disconnecting the blocking devices from the furniture item while maintaining the blocking devices connected to the connector, and
4. connecting the blocking devices with the furniture while maintaining the blocking devices connected to the connector.

There is nothing in the patent to Killen which even remotely suggests connecting a connector to blocking devices while the blocking devices are connected with a furniture item and reference positions. There is nothing in the patent to Killen which suggest disconnecting the blocking devices from the furniture item while the blocking devices are connected to a connector.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 19 and define over the prior art for substantially the same reasons as does claim 19 and by virtue of the method steps set forth in these claims taken in combination with the method steps of claim 19. Specifically, claim 14 sets forth the reference positions as being defined by holes provided in the furniture item for assembly of respective drawer runners. The patent to Killen does not disclose connecting blocking devices with a furniture item at reference positions which are defined by holes provided in the furniture item for assembly of drawer runners.

Claim 15 depends from claim 19 and sets forth a reference position as being defined by respective drawer runners for the plurality of drawers.

Independent claim 16 is directed to a drawer locking device. The locking device includes a plurality of blocking devices. Each of the blocking devices is movable between a first position permitting opening of a drawer and a second

position in which opening of the drawer is blocked. A connecting member is provided for connecting the blocking devices.

The blocking devices are set forth in claim 16 as having a first connecting portion for releasable connection with respective reference connections associated with each drawer in a furniture item and a second connecting portion for connecting with the connecting member. The arrangement is such that the connecting member can be connected to the second connecting portions of the blocking devices when the blocking devices are connected with a reference connections by the first connection portions. The spacing between the blocking devices is determined by the reference connections.

The prior art does not disclose blocking devices having: (1) a first connecting portion for releasable connection with the reference connections and (2) a second connecting portion for connection with a connecting member. Furthermore, the prior art, particularly the patent to Killen, does not disclose a connecting member that can be connected with blocking devices when the blocking devices are connected with reference connections.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the claims in this application clearly and patentably be defined over the prior art. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner allow the claims and pass this application to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner call applicant's attorneys in Cleveland, Ohio at 621-2234, area code 216. Please charge any deficiency in the fees for this application to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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